

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 043468

12

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DOD/DSAA - MR. BETTELEY

PM/SAS - MR. LADD

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

INFO USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, GR, US

SUBJECT: CHANGE OF COUNTRY CATEGORY FOR GREECE AND SPAIN

REF: (A) ATHENS 1395 (NOTAL) (B) SECDEF 142035Z

FEBRUARY 75

1. ACTION TAKEN BY DOD IN REFTTEL B TO CHANGE GREECE FROM CATEGORY A TO CATEGORY B COUNTRY WAS IN RESPONSE TO FORMAL REQUEST FROM DEPARTMENT. THIS ACTION WAS TAKEN PRIMARILY TO ENSURE THAT DEPARTMENT APPROVED IN ADVANCE ALL FMS SALES TO GREECE. SUCH ADVANCE APPROVAL IS NOT REQUIRED FROM CATEGORY A COUNTRIES. THIS STEP WAS DESIRED IN VIEW OF INCREASING COMPLEXITY OF GOG MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, PLETHORA OF ITEMS GREEKS HAVE REQUESTED, AND GROWING SOPHISTICATION LEVEL OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS INVOLVED. WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 043468

INCREASED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN US WEAPONS SALES

ABROAD, DEPARTMENT MUST RESPOND TO MORE FREQUENT REQUESTS TO EXPLAIN RELATIONSHIP OF CERTAIN SALES TO US FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IN SUCH SENSITIVE AREAS AS EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN. DEPARTMENT IS, FOR EXAMPLE, APPROVING ALL NOTIFICATIONS BY DOD TO CONGRESS UNDER NEW SECTION 36(B) OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT REGARDING PROPOSED LETTERS OF OFFER FOR SALES OF \$25 MILLION OR MORE TO ALL COUNTRIES WHETHER CATEGORY A OR B.

2. DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST TO DOD WAS THEREFORE INTENDED ONLY AS INTERNAL USG MATTER AND IN NO WAY REFLECTED ON GOG

MATURITY. SO FAR AS DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED, AND DOD AGREES, GOG REQUESTS FOR PURCHASE OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES MAY CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED THROUGH ESTABLISHED CHANNELS, WITH ONLY CHANGE BEING THAT SECSTATE AND SECDEF SHOULD BE SHOWN AS JOINT ACTION ADDRESSEES ON EITHER JUSMAGG OR EMBASSY CABLES REPORTING SUCH REQUESTS. THIS WILL MEET REQUIREMENT CONTAINED IN PARA 4B, CHAPTER A, MASM PART III. WE HAVE NO DESIRE OR REASON TO CHANGE EXISTING SYSTEM IN ANY DRASTIC WAY.

3. FOR ALL OF THESE REASONS, WE ARE REVIEWING CURRENT LISTING OF ALL COUNTRIES AS A OR B. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ALSO REQUESTED THAT SPAIN BE LISTED AS CATEGORY B COUNTRY AT TIME THAT WE SUBMITTED REQUEST TO DOD ON GREECE.

4. YOU MAY EXPLAIN ABOVE POINTS TO APPROPRIATE GOG OFFICIALS AS NECESSARY, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS IF YOU SHOULD DECIDE NOT TO RAISE MATTER AT ALL. PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN.

5. FOR MADRID: EMBASSY MAY ALSO DRAW ON ABOVE INFORMATION IF YOU DEEM IT NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO GOS ENQUIRIES ON RECATEGORIZATION OF SPAIN. COMMUNICATIONS CHANNELS FOR SPANISH REQUESTS MAY LIKEWISE BE AS OUTLINED IN PARA 2 ABOVE. REQUEST YOU INFORM DEPARTMENT OF ANY ACTION TAKEN. KISSINGER

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